(b) The reasons for low registration are primarily lack of awareness of the need and lack of motivation for registration among the people at large. Administrative weaknesses on the part of some State Governments are also reasons for low levels of registration in their states since the Chief Registrars of Births and Deaths and the State Governments are responsible for the implementation of the registration of births and deaths in the respective states. In India as per the latest available statistics for 1993, 50 percent of births and 46 percent of deaths were registered.

(c) Some major steps which have taken to improve the working of the system are:

(i) The Home Minister has written to the Chief Ministers of States which have low levels of registration. The Home Secretary has addressed the Chief Secretaries highlighting the need on the part of the State Governments to give special attention to this work.

(ii) The Registrar General, India held detailed review meeing of Chief Registrars and State Secretaries incharge of civil registration of all states and union territories.

(iii) Large scale publicity measures have been launched to create awareness among the general public about the importance of registration of births and deaths. The various media used are Radio, TV, postage stationery, cinema slides, documentary films, posters and stickers.

North-Eastersn State Boundary Disputes

784. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of boundary disputes of the North-Eastern Region;

(b) the measures to resolve the boundary disputes between the concerned States;

(c) whether Government are aware of the fact that some areas of Manipur have been encroached by Nagaland and T.B. Hospital of Nagaland has been constructed;

(d) if so, the steps contemplated as a prior measure not to raise the boundary dispute between Manipur and Nagaland; and

(e) whether Government have any intention to constitute a Boundary Commission for resolving the present disputes as a prior measure for the future?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) The main boundary disputes among the North Eastern States are viz.

Assam - Nagaland
Assam - Arunachal Pradesh
Assam - Mizoram
Assam - Meghalaya

(b) The matter has been discussed between concerned State Governments at official and political levels. There is need to continue the dialogue to arrive at a mutually acceptable mode of resolving the disputes. Central Government will provide necessary help to the States concerned in this regard.

(c) and (d) Information is being collected from the concerned State Governments and will be laid on the table of the House.

(e) A Boundary Commission would be set up by the Government of India if both the State Governments involved in the dispute agree to the setting of such a commission and further agree on the terms of reference and also that the award would be final and binding on both the States.

Loss of Lives and Property due to Ethnic Clashes in Manipur

785. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the loss of property and lives due to ethnic clashes in the North-East, especially in Manipur; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to construct the damaged houses and properties to enable return of normalcy?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Government has released a sum of Rs. 1825 lakhs for rehabilitation of persons affected by the Bodo-Santhal clashes in Assam. A sum of Rs. 73.95 lakhs has also been released for payment of ex-gratia to the victims of ethnic clashes in Manipur.

Government of Manipur have also informed that they have sent a proposal to the Ministry of Rural Development for assistance towards rehabilitation of affected persons.

Statehood for Delhi

786. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the steps taken to grant Statehood to Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): The matter is under active consideration of the Government.

Strengthening Police Forces of North-Eastern States

787. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the steps taken to strengthen police forces of the North-Eastern States to phase out Army's involvement in counter-insurgency operation?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Central Government has been providing assistance for modernisation of police forces in North Eastern States. Under the Special scheme for modernisation of police forces in North Eastern States, arms and ammunition and vehicles costing Rs. 35 crores have been provided in kind during 1997-98. Under the general scheme for modernisation of police forces, an amount of Rs. 9,85,92,000 has been released during 1997-98 to North Eastern States.

Bomb Explostions in the Country

788. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bomb explosions in the country during the last three years, State-wise, and agencies involved and the number of persons apprehended in connection with such blasts;

(b) whether investigations revealed involvement of ISI inciting terrorism against India within her territory and abroad; and

(c) if so, the details of such involvement and action initiated by Government to deal with such attempt in future?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Implementation of Assam Accord

789. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any time-frame for clause-wise implementation of Assam Accord has been finalised by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the percentage of Indo-Bangladesh Border along Assam that has been completely sealed to prevent infiltration from across the border; and

(d) the reasons for slow progress in sealing the broder as envisaged in Assam Accord?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Action has been taken to implement all the provisions of the Assam Accord. However, certain provisions of the Accord are of continuing nature e.g. speedy all round economic development of Assam, measures to prevent infiltrators crossing/attempting to cross the border, etc. and therefore, it is not possible to specify and time-frame by which all the provisions could be implemented.

(c) 83% of sanctioned border fencing of 158 kms. has been completed on Assam-Bangladesh border.

(d) The main reason for slow progress of construction of a fence in Assam Sector is reported to be inadequate availability of funds.

Pakistani Assistance to Insurgents

790. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been reported that Pakistan is assisting insurgents in Bihar, Assam, Manipur and Nagaland; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken in this regard?